

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

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McGarvey 202/343-5634.

## DUCK STAMP CONTEST OPENS

The annual "Duck Stamp" contest for wildlife art to adorn next year's Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp was opened July 15, 1976.

Final regulations governing the administration of the contest were published in the Federal Register on June 19, 1975.

Artists interested in submitting an entry should write to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, ATTN: Audio Visual Office, Washington, D.C. 20240, for copies of the contest rules and an entry form.

Entries will be accepted from now until no later than midnight, October 15, 1976.

Only one entry per person will be accepted.

The Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp was authorized and required by the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act of 1934. The stamp's name was changed last year to include the word, Conservation. Popularly known as the "Duck Stamps," they are sold through post offices and must be carried by every migratory waterfowl hunter over 16 years of age. All of the stamp revenues, beyond printing and handling costs, are used solely for the acquisition of additional habitat for ducks and geese.

Prior to 1949, wildlife artists were commissioned to provide the design for the annual stamp. Since that time, the design has been chosen by a contest open to all artists who are residents or citizens of the United States. The prestige of winning the contest has enhanced the reputations of established artists and has elevated otherwise unknown artists to public acclaim.

The annual contest held by the Service is the only art contest regularly sponsored by the Federal Government. The colorful stamps that are selected through the contest constitute the longest running, annually issued series of stamps in revenue or postage stamp history.

The regulations describe the technical specifications for designs created for the contest, the procedures to be followed in submitting an entry, the qualifications and selection of the judging panel, the criteria to be used in scoring the various entries submitted, and the voting procedures to be employed by the judging panel.

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